

REMARKS

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a stretch head, for facilitating the wrapping of palletized loads within packaging or wrapping film, which comprises a vertical downright, and a carriage assembly vertically movable along the vertical downright. A base plate is mounted upon the carriage assembly and is inclined with respect to a horizontal plane so as to have a first end thereof disposed at a higher elevation than a second opposite end thereof. A supply roll of wrapping or packaging film is rotatably mounted upon the first higher end of the base plate, and a pair of tension rollers are mounted upon a substantially central portion of the base plate. A strain gauge roller is also mounted upon the base plate for receiving the wrapping film exiting from the tension rollers, a first idler roller is mounted upon the base plate for receiving the wrapping film from the strain gauge roller, and a second idler roller is mounted upon the second opposite end of the base plate for receiving the wrapping film from the first idler roller. In addition, as can best be appreciated from FIGURES 1 and 3, for example, since the wrapping film is routed from

the second tension roller to the strain gauge roller such that the wrapping film extends around an external portion of the strain gauge roller which is disposed or faces away from the supply roll of wrapping film, and since the wrapping film is routed from the strain gauge roller to the first idler roller such that the wrapping film extends around an external portion of the idler roller which is disposed or faces toward the supply roll of wrapping film, and since still further, the wrapping film is routed from the first idler roller to the second idler roller such that the wrapping film extends around an external portion of the second idler roller which is disposed or faces away from the supply roll of wrapping film, the second idler roller can in fact be mounted upon the lowest end portion of the base plate, in view of the inclined disposition thereof, whereby the second idler roller is capable of positioning the wrapping film at the lowest elevation such that the wrapping film can be wrapped around the lowermost regions of the palletized load.

It is respectively noted that none of the cited prior art disclosed the presently claimed invention. In par-

ticular, while Scherer et al. discloses a film wrapping system somewhat similar to that of the present invention, although it does not include a strain gauge roller, and while Kallner et al. discloses a film wrapping system having a strain gauge roller incorporated therein, neither one of the referenced systems discloses the particular film routing system as presently claimed in connection with the tension rollers, the strain gauge roller, and the idler rollers which in fact enables the wrapping film to be effectively discharged from the second idler roller in such a manner that the wrapping film will be disposed at the lowermost end of the inclined base plate for wrapping around the lowermost portion of the palletized load to be wrapped.